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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ITS Joint Program Office Webinar on Alternative Organizational Structures for a Certificate Management Entity; Notice of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Research and Innovative Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation

ACTION: Notice

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Intelligent Transportation System Joint Program Office (ITS JPO) will host a free public webinar on December 9, 2011 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm (EST) to seek input on a set of high-level, alternative organizational structures for a certificate management entity (CME) to support a trusted and secure connected vehicle environment.

Persons planning to attend the webinar should register by December 5, 2011 using the following link: *http://www.itsa.org/policywebinarregistration*. For additional questions, please contact Adam Hopps at (202) 680-0091.

The ITS JPO will present results from an early analysis of organizational models. This analysis will describe the functions that need to be performed by a CME; identify key constraints as well as institutional and policy requirements; model how those functions may be organized; and present a high level assessment of these organizational models against a set of evaluation criteria. Draft documentation of the analysis will be posted for comment at the following location on or before December 9, 2011 at: *www.its.dot.gov*. Stakeholders are asked to submit comments to: *ITSCME@dot.gov* by 8:00 pm (EST) on December 14, 2011. Written comments may be submitted to: ITS JPO, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE (E33-316) Washington, DC 20590. This is not an official docket. Stakeholders will have additional opportunities to provide input in to this project at later stages, including via a public meeting planned for March 2012.

Background:

Through 2014, the primary focus of the ITS JPO is a research initiative focused on developing rapid and secure wireless communications and trusted data exchanges among vehicles, roadside infrastructure, and passengers' personal communications devices. This innovative use of wireless communications provides the foundation for a connected environment for transportation that is intended to enable a multitude of applications to enhance surface transportation safety, mobility, and environmental performance.

In the end state, users need to have assurance that the system offers trusted and secure communications. That is the fundamental purpose of the Certificate Management System (or CME): to ensure that participants and their vehicles receive digital certificates that allow them to be trusted actors within the system and to access meaningful and trusted data that is generated by others. If trust in the communications breaks down, then trust in the overall connected environment erodes and users become reluctant to use it or rely on it. Trust can be violated in several ways:

- **Security of communications:** If communications are not considered secure, users will be less likely to trust the data that is generated by or accessible through the system.
- **Private data is compromised**: If technical and policy solutions are not in place to protect private data or users perceive that their private data could be made available to unauthorized third parties without their awareness and consent, they will not participate.

- **Corrupt or inaccurate data**: If the data can be altered or corrupted through malicious misbehavior by hackers, it may cause more safety problems than fixes.

The current study aims to analyze alternative operational models that describe potential organizational designs, institutional capabilities, and policies of a Certificate Management System. It also assesses the needs for operation, maintenance, and system enhancements over time. (This study is an institutional analysis only, not a technical analysis, and it is not intended to develop a system design.)

Issued in Washington, DC, on the 16th day of November 2011.

John Augustine,
Managing Director, ITS Joint Program Office

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